

MASTER PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING NOTES February 14, 2008

Attending: David Das, Larry Pelletier, Bonnie Hayes, Kathi Cutler, Vickie Gaylord, Jim Miller, Pat Gautier, Roger Lajoie, Marnie Coleman, Verne Paradie, Keri Myrick, Ben Demers, Tanya Gagne, Tom Morrill, Jude Cyr, Billy Hunter. Observers: Sue Dorris, Jim Chandler, Facilitator: Elaine Dow
Absent: Greg Merritt, Ron Potvin, Bruce Bickford

Ground Rules

- Be clear about your own point of view
- Honor other points of view
- Start and end on time

Next meeting: February 28, 2008
5:15 – Tour Merrill Hill (first) and Chamberlain (Franklin)
6:00 – Meet at Auburn Hall
(workie workie)

NEXT TIME:

- Finalize recommendations and time line

WEBSTER TOUR

- Newest work includes hallway ceilings & lights, rugs
- Classrooms are large; there are 21
- If current proposal is accepted, the first floor will be Franklin. The second floor will be 1/3 Merrill Hill and 1/3 Adult Ed.
- Basement needs some work – one room still has asbestos tile.
- Great old windows, chandeliers and clocks.

AMS RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend that AMS shift its configuration from 7-8 to 6 – 8 – a structure that matches the state’s description of middle school (as defined by the Maine Learning Results). This three-year configuration is supported by some research as long as the programming is intellectually engaging and developmentally appropriate.

The shift to a 6 – 8 middle school will promote longer-lasting relationships with parents/families and offer 6th graders stronger programs in unified arts: world language, technology, music, health and art. It will also offer eligible 6th graders high level math courses.

- In order to accommodate the change from K – 6 to K – 5 citywide, Auburn Middle School will require enlargement and reconfiguration. Approximately 14,000 – 15,000 square feet will be required to accommodate the 6th grade students in a clearly defined wing.
- The building also requires renovations (to eliminate the consistent use of windowless rooms as classrooms) and energy upgrades.
- 6th grade classrooms left vacant in elementary schools will be readily filled either to eliminate portables or to accommodate other programming (Head Start, Pre-K, Special Education).

LAND LAB RECOMMENDATIONS

The Land Lab program accommodates 4000 student visits per year and is the development and delivery center of the K – 8 science curriculum. The program promotes year round outdoor and indoor activities and provides professional development to K – 12 science teachers.

- The Land Lab program is vital to science instruction and should remain operational for Auburn schools. However, the C.P. Wight building is no longer worth repairing or renovating. The Land Lab program should move onto the East Auburn campus, preferably in its own green building, as soon as space can be created.

ELEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Auburn community has long supported small, neighborhood schools. Consequently this committee recommends that current elementary schools remain open. Once the middle school renovation is complete, elementary buildings will become PreK – 5 facilities. Some elementary schools need additions and renovations to bring them up to par. Washburn, in particular, needs an addition as soon as possible to eliminate the use of portables. Recommendations follow:

- Washburn: Addition of classrooms to replace the portables is an immediate need. Later additions include a gym, stage and full kitchen.
- East Auburn: Addition of several classrooms
- Park Ave: Add 2 classrooms ?
- Walton, Sherwood Heights, Fairview



WEBSTER SCHOOL

The school committee has recently initiated a proposal to do the following:

1. Re-open Webster School to accommodate four programs: 1) Franklin and Merrill Hill Alternative Programs 2) Adult Education 3) Literacy Volunteers 4) Share Center.
2. Move the regional RETC program into the Chamberlain Building at 23 High Street. The building is now being used for the Franklin Alternative Program.
3. Sell both the Western Avenue property which currently houses the Merrill Hill Alternative Program and the Mt. Auburn Avenue property which currently houses RETC/SOS.

This subcommittee supports the school committee’s Webster proposal because it makes educational and economic sense. The school department can take advantage of a well used but still serviceable school building. And the use of one large building for four programs reduces costs through the elimination and sale of two properties.

Program effectiveness should be monitored over the next five years to determine whether or not Webster is, in fact, a suitable facility for the four programs and whether or not the four programs can co-exist under the same roof. As long as program effectiveness remains intact, Webster should be kept open, maintained and upgraded as needed.

OTHER FACILITIES

Auburn School Department’s district administration and business offices are currently housed at Auburn Hall. Proximity to the city’s administrative offices promotes communication and collaboration. As long as the school budget can support the extra costs of this office space (approximately \$50,000 greater than the previous facility), we recommend the school’s administrative offices remain housed at Auburn Hall.

Support Services?????

TIME LINE

This subcommittee’s recommendations should be carried out over a six - ten year period with time line accommodations and plan revisions made in response to economic, educational and community exigencies.

08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18
Edward Little									
Washburn									
			AMS						
					Elementary				

OR should we create phase-in options????